explicitly into the tax net. Madam, however, it is necessary also to learn from our experience with regard to the introduction of State-level VAT. The hon. Minister has mentioned that after the passage of this Constitution (Amendment) Bill, its ratification by the States, he will come to this House and to Parliament with a fresh legislation which will lay down the broad principles on which services ought to be taxed in our country. I would respectfully submit to him that adequate preparation should be made for this purpose. The Bill, when it is ready, should be made available for discussion by the public. Those who are affected by the provisions of this Bill, they should be consulted; and we should evolve a broad national consensus which would integrate the services taxation into the broad framework of system of Indirect Taxes, both into the Central framework of CENVAT as well as the State-level Value-Added Taxes. This is one submission I would make to the hon. Minister that before we rush through legislation, there must be adequate and proper consultations with representatives of industry and trade and with the representatives of various professional organisations so that the type of difficulties that have arisen while implementing the State-level VAT do not, plague us when it comes to having an explicit arrangement for taxation of services. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam, this is unusual for me to do it, but I do seek liberty to clarify it. On this final point, I will be replying in great detail, but I want to affirm straightaway that this is an eminently sound suggestion that, after this Constitution Amendment, the legislation proper relating to the service tax, be circulated for larger public opinion, of course, we will, certainly, do it. We will consult the Leader of the Opposition, and we will circulate it to as large a community of the concerned, as possible. Certainly, we will do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIR

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have given one hour for this legislation, and we don't have many speakers on this. We will have to decide about the voting process.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : वह तो चार बजे है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; but, I think we will finish it earlier than that. If we finish it earlier than that...

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, we are opposing the Bill for some valid reasons.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may oppose it; that is not the point. The point is the voting process. You can only oppose when it comes up for voting. So, I am just trying to say that I have only a very few speakers. So, the discussion on the Bill might finish earlier than the stipulated time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Madam, I believe that we have discussed that we will have the voting on both the Constitution Amendments together. After the lunch hour, we will take up the Ninety-sixth Constitution Amendment Bill so that the time can be utilised. I think, we have decided, more or less, between 4 and 4.30, we will have the voting.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam, I am really in the hands of the community of the hon. Members here. It is unusual, Madam, for a discussion on a Bill, particularly on a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, to be completed and thereafter it is left in suspense; another Constitution (Amendment) Bill taken up and then, in tandem, the two Constitution Amendment Bills voted upon. I don't want to interfere with the convenience of the hon. Members, but we are now devising a procedure that I don't think really follows the strict procedure that we have set for ourselves. I think, somewhere, we are, perhaps, twisting the spirit also of the provision.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, this matter was discussed in the morning with the Chairman and, in fact, I think, it was your proposal that the two Bills should be discussed together, but voting should take place only at the end. Therefore, we have informed all our Members that they should be here at 4 o'clock. If you have the voting now, you don't have the requisite number of Members here. We have no objection. But, you don't have the numbers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We need two-thirds of the Members present and voting.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, I hope we will stick to the earlier decision because we have already informed the Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us take that this change is only for once. We are not going to make a precedent out of it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, that is right. ...*(Interruptions)*... It seems there is some kind of a cross-connection between the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sometimes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Cell-phone did not work, perhaps ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE CONSTITUTION (NINETY-FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

AND

THE CONSTITUTION (NINETY-SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Madam, I honestly compliment the hon. Finance Minister. This is a very essential Bill. Whenever our Chief Minister Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu had visited Delhi, he requested the Finance Minister to enact this Bill. Madam, we know that in developing countries the service tax is collected promptly to boost their economy as well as development. So, with this Bill, the States will have a major share out of the service tax. I would request the Finance Minister that while framing the Bill, he should take into consideration this fact that a major share is given to the States so that they can boost up their development. This is the tax by which the States can have more financial arrangements. I would also like to request the Finance Minister that while framing the Bill, the small, petty technicians - like a person who goes to a house to repair a stove or to repair a refrigerator - should be exempted from the service tax. One aspect, which needs to be carefully ensured, is that professionals like engineers, doctors, architects, chartered accountants, cost accountants, etc. are prompted to pay their service tax. You are advertising that income tax should be paid promptly and the Income Tax Department salutes the honest taxpayers. Like that if you advertise for the professionals who pay service tax, I think, the finances will boost up and we can also boost up our GDP nearly by 50 per cent. The proposed amendment facilitates reforms in the domestic trade system and widen the tax base of the States, when they consider the VAT. Lastly, I once again appeal to the Finance Minister that while framing this Bill, he may keep in mind the fact that the States get more share out of it. Madam, I welcome and support this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, at the very outset, we appreciate the fact that the Government has brought this Constitution Amendment.